

Agenda Item No. 9

Review of the role and Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee

Great Western Ambulance Joint Health Scrutiny Committee 17th September 2010

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Purpose

To review the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee and to determine whether it should continue to meet.

Recommendation

The Great Western Ambulance Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- **Review the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee**
- **Re-appoint a Chair for a further 12 month period**
- **Confirm whether the meeting cycle should change from three monthly to four monthly**
- **Request that the Chairs of each participating local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee seek the approval of their Full Council in relation to any revisions agreed to the Terms of Reference, if necessary**

1.0 Reasons

- 1.1 The Terms of Reference of the Great Western Ambulance Joint Health Scrutiny Committee requires that the effectiveness of the Joint Committee and its Terms of Reference are reviewed on an annual basis.

2.0 Detail

- 2.1 The Committee's Terms of Reference were last revised in January 2009. Suggested changes are highlighted in red, with the majority of these being minor technical changes for accuracy. There are also two suggested amendments under "Mission Statement" and "Rationale" respectively. These are intended to cover issues that may arise from the recent White Paper on Health, and work identified by the recent Short Life Group on Rural Response Times
- 2.2 Members are requested to re-appoint a Chair for a further 12 month period.

- 2.2 Members are requested to confirm whether they wish the Committee to continue to meet, and if so, if they wish meetings to change to a four monthly cycle.
- 2.3 Members are requested to confirm the Terms of Reference, with any amendments required.

Background Papers and Appendices

Appendices

Appendix A: Terms of Reference (revised January 2009) with suggested amendments highlighted.

Great Western Ambulance Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

Terms of Reference (Revised January 2009 September 2010)

Mission Statement

To collectively scrutinise the planning, design and delivery of services provided by the Great Western Ambulance NHS Trust (GWAS) to:

- Hold GWAS to account for its performance on a Trust-wide basis
- To review and develop policy that affects all local authority areas served by GWAS
- To scrutinise the impact of the services provided by GWAS on all local communities served by the Trust
- To review the impact of legislative changes which directly or indirectly affect the provision of ambulance services in the area served by GWAS

Rationale

Local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees (HOSCs) have statutory powers to scrutinise the provision of healthcare services to their local communities. HOSCs have an important role in:

- Involving local people and community organisations in scrutiny activity
- Developing a dialogue with service providers and other stakeholders outside the council
- Taking up issues of concern to local people
- Reviewing whether goals are being achieved
- Examining what can be done to solve problems and enhance performance and achievement
- Assisting GWAS achieve their aims through providing practical support where possible and appropriate

Where health services are delivered by a single provider across a number of local authority areas, as is the case with ambulance services provided by the Great Western Ambulance NHS Trust, it is recognised that there are benefits of the relevant local authorities coming together to scrutinise the planning, design and delivery of these services in partnership.

This will ensure:

- A co-ordinated approach to the scrutiny process
- A common understanding of issues affecting all local authorities within the GWAS region
- A single forum for the discussion and review of issues affecting all local authorities within the GWAS region
- An identified body to respond to proposals to vary or develop services that have been determined to be a “substantial variation” by two or more local authority HOSCs

Legal Framework

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 provides local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees to scrutinise the planning, design and development of local health services.

The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2012 state in Paragraph 7:

“(1) Two or more local authorities may appoint a joint committee (a "joint overview and scrutiny committee") of those authorities and arrange for relevant functions in relation to any (or all) of those authorities to be exercised by the joint committee subject to such terms and conditions as the authorities may consider appropriate.”

Aims and Objectives

The Great Western Ambulance Joint Health Scrutiny Committee will meet to scrutinise matters relating to:

- The performance of the Great Western Ambulance NHS Trust against national and local performance indicators
- Any issue in relation to the planning, design or delivery of healthcare services by the Great Western Ambulance NHS Trust that impacts on two or more local authorities within the area served by the Trust
- Proposals by the Great Western Ambulance NHS Trust or Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust as lead commissioner to vary or develop ambulance services where two or more local authority Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees have found the proposal to constitute a “substantial variation”.

To have specific responsibility (but not limited to):

- The scrutiny of performance against national and local response time targets
- The scrutiny of performance against other national and local targets
- The scrutiny of the strategic direction of the planning, design and delivery of healthcare services provided by the Great Western Ambulance NHS Trust
- The scrutiny of the commissioning of ambulance services within the area served by the Great Western Ambulance NHS Trust

The remit of the Great Western Ambulance Joint Health Scrutiny Committee excludes:

- The scrutiny of any matters relating to the planning, design and delivery of healthcare services provided by the Great Western Ambulance NHS Trust that impacts on a single local authority, without first seeking the approval of the relevant local authority
- The scrutiny of individual cases
- The scrutiny of the management of staff

Task Groups

The Joint Committee may establish a task group comprising of at least two members to carry out an in depth review of a specific issue. A named lead officer will administer each Task Group, with additional support by other local authority scrutiny officers as appropriate.

As part of its decision as to whether to establish a Task Group, the Joint Committee will consider any funding implications.

Scrutiny by Individual HOSCs

Individual HOSCs retain the right to scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, design or delivery of ambulance services within their area.

It is requested that individual HOSCs advise the Joint Committee of their intention to carry out such a review in order to:

- Prevent duplication
- Identify whether the issue also impacts on other local authorities
- Identify any support that could be provided by the Joint Committee

The final decision to scrutinise an issue remains with the individual HOSC.

The Joint Committee will ensure that copies of its agenda, minutes and work programme are sent to the Chairs of all individual HOSCs.

Membership

Each participating local authority will nominate 3 members of their HOSC to sit on the Joint Committee. Substitutes may attend if required. The following local authorities are members of the Joint Committee:

- Bristol City Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- North Somerset Council
- South Gloucestershire Council
- Swindon Borough Council
- Wiltshire ~~County~~ Council
- [Bath and North East Somerset](#)

The Joint Committee shall be entitled to appoint a number of non-voting co-optees.

The Chair will be appointed for a period of 12 months and will be reviewed in [February 2009- September 2011](#). In the absence of the Chair, a member of the Joint Committee from the local authority at which the meeting is being hosted will be appointed to act as Chair. The Chair will not receive a Chair's allowance.

[All meetings of the Joint Committee will be held in public.](#) A 15 minute public forum will be held at the start of every Joint Committee meeting.

Administrative Support

Scrutiny Officers from the participating local authorities will support the Joint Committee. The Scrutiny Officer from [Swindon Borough-Bristol City](#) Council will be the lead officer to co-ordinate support arrangements.

[Agenda papers and minutes will be made available on the website of the lead local authority. Each local authority will be responsible for displaying agenda papers and minutes on their own websites.](#)

Support arrangements will be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Funding

Participating local authorities are not required to make a financial contribution for the support of the Joint Committee.

Individual local authority Scrutiny Officers will be responsible for printing papers for their members.

The venue of meetings of the Joint Committee will be rotated amongst the participating local authorities. The host local authority will meet the costs of providing hospitality.

The Joint Committee will monitor on a quarterly basis, whether any local authority in supporting the Joint Committee has incurred any additional costs.

Frequency of Meetings

The Joint Committee will meet on a quarterly basis. Additional meetings may be arranged if required.

Attendance at Meetings and Provision of Information

As outlined in the Health and Social Care Act 2001, NHS organisations are obliged to respond to requests for information made by the Joint Committee and to attend meetings of the Joint Committee if required.

This duty also extends to scrutiny reviews being carried out by individual HOSCs.

Review of Terms of Reference

The effectiveness of the Joint Committee and its Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis. The next review will place in ~~October 2009~~ October 2011.